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cow gave 1,688 liters of milk with a butterfat content of 4.09 percent. In 1952-1953, the same cows gave 2,077 liters each with 4.15 percent of butterfat. This result was obtained by feeding the cows green fodder each season, massaging the bags before milking, and milking three times a day. The best milker in the center, who tends 12 cows, exceeds the milk production quota 3-5 percent. During one 9-month period, the cows gave 2,570 liters of milk more than planned. The butter plan was fulfilled 102.5 percent.(2)

The Dobrac Agricultural Collective in Shkoder Qark obtained an average of 2,400 liters of milk from its cows during the lactation period, while at the Zootechnic Research and Selection Center, the cow Aferdite produced a record of 5,285 liters. The agricultural collectives at Dobrac, Ajazme, Gril, and Kamice in Shkoder Rreth, and the Shen Kolli Agricultural Collective in Lesh have special herds of the Shkoder breed.(1)

The peasants and agricultural collectives of Shkoder drew up a plan in 1953 to increase the number of their livestock, by the end of 1955, by the following percentages: cows and oxen, 9; sheep, 5; goats, 81; and pigs, 202. Attention will also be paid to improving the breeds and selecting purebred sheep. There are eight breeding stations in Shkoder Rreth, including recently opened stations in Oblike, Mes, and Velipoje. By the end of the Five-Year Plan, there will be 17 more stations than in 1938. Two large pig-breeding stations are in operation at Trush and Barbullush.(3)

Livestock-breeding stations in Skrapar Rreth, Berat Qark, are trying to improve their breeds by introducing Shkoder cows and "Rana" goats. At the end of the Five-Year Plan, Skrapar Rreth will have 8,043 more goats and 1,304 more cattle than in 1950. The rreth will also greatly increase the number of horses and mules.(4)

Peshkopi Rreth, Diber Qark, has pasturage for thousands of sheep. The plan, based on the instructions of the Council of Ministers and the Party Central Committee, and drawn up by the local authorities, provides for the following percentage increases by the end of 1953: horses and mules, 3; cows, 6; sheep, 9; goats, 3; and poultry, 35. The peasants in the mountainous region of Selishte are asked to concentrate on goats, and those in the central plains around Maqelare and Shepenze, on sheep. There are four breeding stations in Peshkopi Rreth. Twelve more are soon to be built. Special care is to be given to raising curly-haired ("Rude") sheep. Their slaughter is forbidden.(5)

Peasants of Tomin, Peshkopi Rreth, expect to overfulfill the livestock quota of the Five-Year Plan 20 percent. They specialize in curly-haired sheep. Three peasants, each having 40-50 of these sheep, obtain 1.7 kilograms of wool per sheep through biannual shearing. Tomin peasants will mate their sheep this season with pedigreed rams. Besides sheep, each peasant has one or two cows, including Shkoder cows; and each peasant has three or four haycocks.(6)

The Council of Ministers and the Party Central Committee are encouraging collectives to replace local rams by curly-haired rams, to crossbreed cows, to increase the number of sheep, to secure winter fodder, and to build new stables and sheepfolds.(7) The peasants of the Gjocaj Agricultural Collective, Elbasan Qark, have taken 16 cows to the breeding station. They have also procured a curly-haired ram. In 4-5 years all their sheep will be curly-haired. The flock will soon number 500. Thus far in 1953, lambing has been 96 percent successful and calving 100 percent successful.(8) The collective [as of 29 September] has

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374 sheep and 44 cows and calves, besides draft animals. (7) [Source: 8 states that, as of 15 October, the Gjoze Agricultural Collective has 274 sheep, 38 cows and heifers, 8 pigs, 5 buffalo-cows, 37 ox teams, and many horses.]

Disease Control

Mange is prevalent among sheep and goats in Albania, especially in the mountainous regions of Permet, Berat, Elbasan, and Skrapar rreths. Many peasants believe that this disease will disappear of itself, and hence take no sanitary measures, such as isolating diseased animals. Control of mange is not difficult, but unless the peasants are alerted to apply prophylactic and curative methods, veterinarians can do little to eliminate this disease. Technicians and mass and educational organizations in touch with the peasants must explain these methods to the masses.

The Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Workers Party, in their resolution on the improvement of animal husbandry, urge collectives and individuals to reduce this disease to a minimum, and point out that mange medicine is within reach of all livestock breeders. Besides Kreoline, which is most in use, there are several effective medications, including powdered sulfur and powdered slaked lime which can be dusted on flocks three or four times weekly in any season. Every shepherd should have on hand a half-kilogram tin, preferably of sulfur and lime mixed. To be effective, dusting must be done thoroughly not only on diseased, but on healthy sheep. Shearing twice a year is an aid in eliminating mange, since applications after shearing and washing bring the medicines in closer contact with the infected area. Sheep pens must also be thoroughly washed and disinfected. Infected sheep must be isolated and contaminated pastures must be kept idle for 2 months. (9)

Although the Five-Year Plan provides for increasing the number and improving the breed of livestock, little has been accomplished in some rreths. Kruje Rreth, for example, had made no plans up to July 1953 for each village and individual holding. Other rreths, like Korce, make plans but do nothing to implement them. The excessive slaughter of livestock by peasants to celebrate feasts, marriages, and births also militates against the normal increase of flocks and herds. Local authorities must combat this tendency by propaganda.

Another deterrent factor is that sheep are not protected against parasitic and infectious diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, worms, mange, agalactia, carbuncles, and enterotoxemia. To control these diseases, every shepherd must see that pastures and watering places are clean. Cleaning and disinfecting must be done regularly. Veterinarians must be called in as soon as disease is detected. Similar measures must be taken against disease in larger cattle. (10)

State agricultural and livestock-breeding farms are organizing to combat mange among their flocks with medicinal herbs. They hope to eliminate it by the end of 1953. Peasants in Skrapar, Berat, and Elbasan rreths are learning to apply medicinal herbs to diseased sheep, and to isolate them. Sheep were vaccinated against carbuncles in April 1952, and it is hoped that this disease will be eliminated by the end of 1953. Veterinarians are also treating enterotoxemia with vaccine, and advising peasants to divide their pastures into small lots to avoid spreading infection over the whole area. (11)

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Increase in Numbers

The state is aiding in increasing the number of livestock and improving the breeds by organizing livestock-breeding stations, with thoroughbred stallions, bulls, and rams available to the peasants for breeding purposes. But much practical work is needed among the masses by all democratic front and party organizations if the Five-Year Plan for the increase and improvement of livestock is to be carried out. (10)

Recently the Morave Agricultural Collective, Berat Qark, bought 30 sheep from its reserve fund. It now [26 September 1953] has eight times more pigs and five times more poultry than in 1952, as well as more cows and more bees. In 1954, the collective expects to have more purebred cows, mares, and curly-haired sheep. The members are planning to build cow barns, sheepfolds, and hen coops, and to store grass, alfalfa, straw, and corn husks for winter. About 50 dynyms [a dynym is one fourth of an acre] are already planted with clover for the sheep. (12)

The Lefter Talo Agricultural Collective, Gjinokaster Qark, has 350 sheep, for which a new sheepfold has recently been built. The sheep are sheared twice a year and milked three times a day. (13)

The Poloske Agricultural Collective, Korce Qark, specializes in raising pigs. It now [October] has 50 pigs. (14)

The Shkoder Rreth Executive Committee, Shkoder Qark, took steps to obtain agrarian credits in time for the fall sowing. More than 100 peasants have benefited by these credits. Among the purchases made by peasants through the credits were 111 oxen, 22 bulls, 9 milch cows, and 11 calves. (15)

Agricultural collectives in Shkoder Qark show [in September 1953] the following percentage increases over the 1952 figures: cattle [unspecified], 55; sheep, 82; hogs, 121; and other animals, 37. The Gril Agricultural Collective fulfilled its 1953 plan before September. The Dobrac Agricultural Collective has built 70 new barns and 20 sties so far in 1953.

In 1952, over 1,200 sheep in this qark were sheared twice. Milking three times a day produced 25 percent more milk [than by the earlier method]. (16)

Products

Production of industrial goods needed by the peasants is closely connected with production of food for industrial workers, and raw materials, such as wool and hides, for industry. The recent government provisions in favor of the peasants are stimulating them to increase production, but some shortcomings are evident in the fulfillment of the collection plan for the first 9 months of 1953. Whereas Diber and Gjinokaster qarks fulfilled the year's meat collection plan 89 and 78 percent, respectively, Tirana and Shoder qarks averaged only 68 percent. Collection agencies have not yet realized that the supply of meat and eggs to workers has a direct effect upon the necessary alliance between workers and peasants.

Fall is the season when animals are fat, and also the time when the peasants, to pay the meat debt to the state, set apart the animals which are too old to work. The kulak will, of course, try to put obstacles in the way of debt collections. The peasants and the local authorities must unmask him and make him take the responsibility for any failure in the collections. (17)

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement announced that, in the first 6 months of 1953, the meat collection plan had been fulfilled 102.5 percent and the wool collection plan 104.9 percent. The Mat River area received special mention for fulfilling the meat collection plan 163.2 percent, the wool collection plan 140 percent, and the egg collection plan 166.9 percent, and received the ministry's Red Banner for its grain collection. Also distinguished for meat and wool collections were the rreths of Mirdite, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gramsh, Gjinokaster, Permet, Sarandë, and Vlore. (18)

The Perhondi and Sheqeze agricultural collectives in Berat Qark have finished the second sheepshearing for 1953. Sheqeze collective members obtained 1,400 grams of wool per sheep by the biannual sheepshearing method. In general, 600-1,500 grams more wool was obtained by this method than by the previous method of shearing once a year (19)

As of 3 August, peasants of Diber Qark have fulfilled the collection plan for wool 87 percent, for meat 94 percent, and for eggs 100 percent. The Mat highlanders expected to pay their debt in animal produce by the end of August. Peasants of Martanesh finished their payments in early August. (20)

Elbasan peasants completed the animal husbandry plan for the first 6 months of 1953 on 25 June. Librazd peasants fulfilled the 6-month plan for meat 145 percent and for wool 108 percent. (21)

The Gjocaj Agricultural Collective, Elbasan Qark, obtains 3 kilograms of wool per ram and 2 kilograms per sheep by biannual shearing. It also obtains annually 70 kilograms of milk per ewe by milking three times a day. (8)

The Cerrik State Farm is employing the biannual method of sheepshearing for the second year. The first shearing in 1953 produced 2.5-3 kilograms of wool per sheep, the second 1.5 kilograms. One ram gave a total of 5.8 kilograms. The ewes, milked three times a day, give 1.5 kilograms of milk each per day. Lambs are left with their mothers until they are 2 1/2 months old. (22)

Biannual sheepshearing is practiced on all state sheep farms and collectives in Gjinokaster Qark. The Suhe Agricultural Collective obtained 642 grams of wool per sheep from the second shearing in 1953, while several progressive sheep owners obtained 550 grams. (23)

The Azim Zeneli Stock-Raising Collective, Gjinokaster Qark, obtained 2.3 kilograms of wool per sheep by biannual shearing in 1953, 200 grams more than the amount obtained in 1952 and 700 grams more than the average amount obtained by the old method of sheepshearing. The collective does good propaganda work in other villages. For example, in April 1953, it organized consultations in Sopik-Pogon and, in addition, gave a demonstration by shearing 1,200 sheep. Many peasants were converted to the use of the new method.

This collective also milks its sheep three times a day, thus obtaining 20 percent more milk than by the earlier method. In 1952, each sheep gave 65 kilograms of milk instead of 58, the amount expected in the plan. Up to the present [2 October], the collective has produced a large amount of ordinary cheese, about 5,000 kilograms of "vize" cheese [a piquant cheese sold in small pieces], and 1,000 kilograms of butter.

The Five-Year Plan provides for raising 2,600 sheep crossbred with the "cigaja" breed. In 1952, the collective had 900 of these sheep, and bred 260 more from the best specimens. (24)

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The Ylli i Kuq State Farm, Korce Qark, produced 15,000 kilograms more milk in 1952 than the planned amount. It also furnished the state a large quantity of wool, lambs, and kids. Milking every 3 hours has increased milk production 15-20 percent. The biannual sheepshearing method has greatly increased wool production. The annual plan for raising lambs has been fulfilled 120.9 percent; for raising goats, 140.9 percent.(25)

The Shuec Agricultural Collective, Korce Qark, has 100 more sheep and 100 more goats [29 August 1953] than in 1952. Annual milk production reached 75 kilograms per sheep and 100 kilograms per goat in 1952. By the end of 1953, the collective expects to obtain 10 kilograms more per head. Biannual shearing is producing about 200 grams of wool more per sheep than the previous method.(26)

During the last sheepshearing season, 8,803 sheep were sheared for the second time in Korce Qark. The Tren Agricultural Collective averaged 200 grams of wool per head from 224 sheep, the Poloske Agricultural Collective averaged 1,850 grams per head from 453 sheep, and the Vashtime Agricultural Collective averaged 2,480 grams per head. An average of 500-600 grams more wool is obtained by this method than by shearing once a year.(26)

Fodder

Soviet experiments have shown that tree foliage is richer than grass and alfalfa in protein and fats which produce meat, fat, and energy in animals and better than metal salt (HI) [sic], starch, and sugar (raw niter extract) [sic] to keep animals in condition and increase milk production. The Albanian Council of Ministers and the Party Central Committee consider collection of foliage for fodder of extreme importance, especially in the mountainous regions.

The most valuable foliage for fodder comes from oaks, elms, poplars, chestnut and hazelnut trees, beeches, and hornbeam trees. The peasants know about the use of leaves for fodder in dry seasons, but know little about using the foliage of vines, of mulberry, plum, and fig trees, and of other fruit trees, which is more valuable than grass or alfalfa. They also know nothing about using mistletoe, elder leaves, or leaves of certain wild trees as fodder. Some leaves, like the foliage of walnut trees, laburnum, "kulpur" [a fruitless tree], red willow, and ivy are considered poisonous.

The best season for gathering edible foliage from forest trees is in August and September, and from fruit trees in the latter half of September, but tree pruning can be done only by permission of the forestry officials. The leaves and small branches gathered must be kept in a semishady place until dry. When dried, they must be protected from rain and snow.(23)

The plan of the Ministry of Agriculture provides for the clearing of 15,042 hectares of pasturage by state farms and agricultural collectives. The clearing operations are to be carried out by voluntary labor. Democratic front organizations are asked to undertake a political campaign among the peasants to mobilize enough workers, including women and young people.(27)

In Berat Qark, the Skrapar peasants have gathered five times more hay and straw up to the present time [17 September 1953] than in the same period of 1952. They also enrolled large quantities of fodder for the first time in their experience. They are now engaged in clearing summer pasturage.(28)

The Gramsh Executive Committee in Elbasan Qark is providing for the following percentage increases in livestock: sheep, 9; goats, 3; cows and oxen, 5; horses, 4; mules, 3; hogs, 50; and poultry, 50.

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The summer rains promoted the growth of grass and other fodder in Elbasan Qark, so peasants in Cerunj, Drize, and Cekin were able to mow and rick in good time. Moreover, they were able to contract with cooperative shops for about 30,000 kilograms of hay. On the other hand, many peasants have postponed collecting fodder until too late and may consequently suffer great losses among their cattle this winter. This negligence must be blamed on the people's councils and the primary organizations, which do not mobilize the peasants to collect winter fodder for their animals. (11) Peasants of Faret, Sopot, Dragostunj, Librazdh, and Qukes have secured 120,000 kilograms of hay from their meadows [as of 29 August]. They have also cut their alfalfa five or six times. The Shirgjan and Gjocaj agricultural collectives have silos, and are now engaged in collecting large supplies of fodder, corn, and squash for their hogs and cows. They have already cleared 235 hectares of pasture and intend to clear 265 additional hectares. Women are busy removing stones and rocks while young people reap or burn off the stubble. (26) The Gjocaj Agricultural Collective has 50,000 kilograms of alfalfa for its cows, as well as a good supply of mangel-wurzel and corn stalks. (8)

The Ministry of Agriculture issued detailed instructions in May 1953 on securing winter fodder, but the Korce Qark Executive Committee kept them in its files for 2 1/2 months. Llazo Grazhdani, head of the agricultural section of the committee, did not and still does not exert himself. There is plenty of alfalfa and hay, as 1953 crops are good, but there is no control or organization. Some peasants, such as those at Vithkuq, and some agricultural collectives, like those of Melcan and Lamalas, began to store fodder in good time, but their example is not being widely followed because the executive committee leaves decisions to the peasants. The Rembec Agricultural Collective, for instance, reaped its alfalfa at the right time, but let it remain on the field. Consequently, much is now spoiled.

Furthermore, [as of 5 August] the Korce Executive Committee has secured only 72 percent of the ground needed for winter fodder at breeding stations. Consequently, in the Pogrit and Pustec breeding stations, bulls will have to eat straw this winter, which is not good for purebreds. The committee must take urgent steps to prevent a serious shortage by organizing ensilage of beets and collection of edible foliage. (29)

The Sarande Rreth Democratic Front has done excellent work in organizing the clearance of pastures and storage of fodder. Peasants were asked to start clearing about 1,000 hectares of pasture on 10 August and to finish on 10 September. Members of the Democratic Front were requested to organize squads in the village and work with them on collecting and drying grass and weeds for winter fodder. (30) Only 479 hectares of the 1,315 hectares of pasture have been cleared [18 September 1953]. Democratic Front members have also aided in burning off 3,858 hectares for grazing land, without damaging any of the wooded places. (31)

II. BEES, SILKWORMS

Bees

The resolutions passed by the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the party provide for a 400 percent increase in the number of bees at the end of the Five-Year Plan, as compared to the 1950 figure. Beekeeping has long been practiced in Albania, but earlier methods were primitive. Bees were kept in hollow tree trunks, in skeps smeared with mud, or in boxes fastened to walls. These types of hives did not contribute to the welfare of the bees or the cleanliness of the honey. Beekeeping received a setback when the Fascists destroyed 15,000 beehives [date unspecified]. But when the party came to power, it opened a factory for beekeeping equipment, established a bee farm, and allotted credits to peasants for the purchase of bees and implements.

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As a result of party measures, the number of bees in Albania is now roughly 35 percent higher than in 1952, while in some places, such as Tropoje and Durres, it may be 60 percent higher. Honey production in modern hives is greatly increased. For example, the Dukat State Farm averages 20 kilograms of honey per hive from more than 100 hives; the Irakli Terova State Farm obtains 40 kilograms; and the Lefter Talo Agricultural Collective averages 30 kilograms, but has sometimes obtained as much as 60 kilograms. Some peasants in Gjinokaster, Sarande, Himare, and Durres have obtained 50 kilograms per hive. One Gjinokaster beekeeper has a record of 100 kilograms of honey from one hive and an average of 50 kilograms from 25 other hives.

Transferring the bees from place to place according to the variety of flowers in bloom, which has brought production up to 300 kilograms per hive in the USSR, is now being practiced in Albania. Beekeepers use the sage-growing meadows on Tarabosh Mountain and the thyme- and marjoram-growing meadows on Boge Mountain. They also provide winter food for their bees. They are learning to protect the bees from moth larvae, bee lice, and mites. (32)

One of the chief sources of income for peasants in minority [Greek?] villages in Gjinokaster is beekeeping. The peasants are constantly increasing the number of hives and have already replaced about 70 percent of their primitive beehives with modern hives. A modern hive produces an average of 40-45 kilograms of honey, while primitive types produce about 10 kilograms each. Dropull peasants have obtained 10,000 kilograms of honey. (33)

The Tirana Executive Committee has given truck gardeners of Tirana City 20,000 leks to buy bees and modern hives. (34)

Silkworms

One collective in Elbasan has hatched out 150 grams of silkworm eggs and provided the worms with food. The eggs hatched 100 percent. About 770 grams of eggs have been distributed throughout the rreth. Supplies of mulberries are being collected for the 1953 crop of silkworms. (35)

The climate of Peshkopi Rreth is favorable to the silkworm industry. The agricultural section of the Peshkopi Executive Committee is encouraging silkworm culture by providing an expert to advise the peasants. During the season, the peasants collected 450 grams of eggs. Often, 5 grams of eggs produce 12 kilograms of cocoons. To date [12 August], Peasants have collected 223 kilograms of cocoons. (36)

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